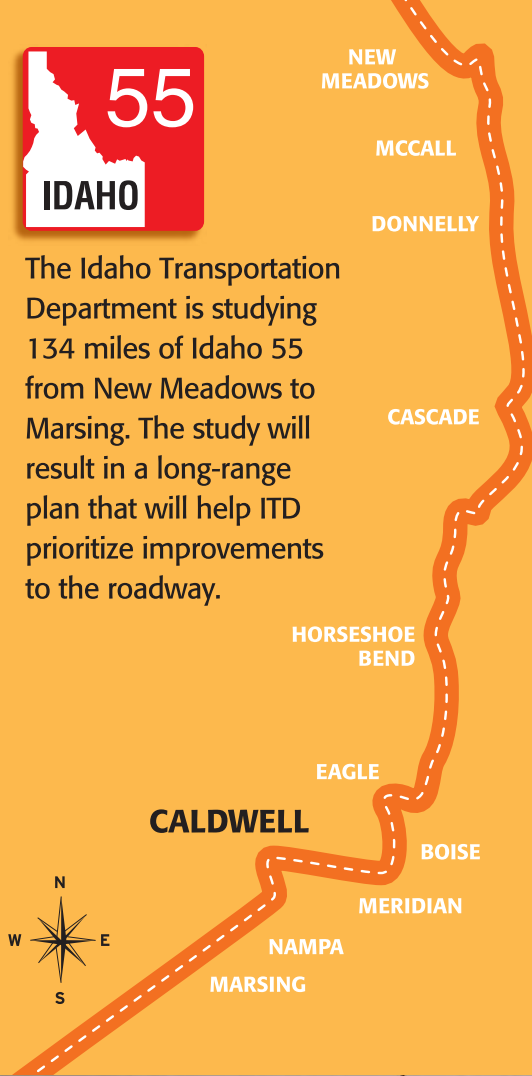




The Idaho Transportation Department is studying 134 miles of Idaho 55 from New Meadows to Marsing. The study will result in a long-range plan that will help ITD prioritize improvements to the roadway.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Public open house update
- Improvements identified for Idaho 55 in Canyon County
- Intersection improvements
- Next steps for corridor study



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IDAHO 55 CORRIDOR STUDY NEWSLETTER CANYON COUNTY

The Idaho Transportation Department has hosted 12 public meetings in counties along Idaho 55 to gather comments about corridor needs and future improvements.

Look inside to read what we learned in Canyon County in September 2009.



About the Idaho 55 Corridor Study

Idaho 55 is one of the few north-south corridors that connects southern and central Idaho. It begins in New Meadows, runs through six counties and ends just outside Marsing. More than 110 miles of the highway are designated the Payette River Scenic Byway for the beautiful mountain forests and whitewater rapids along the way.

The Idaho 55 corridor study involves developing a long-range plan that identifies current and future needs over the next 20 years. ITD will consider safety, access, traffic and environmental issues and set priorities for improvements.

For more information about the Idaho 55 Corridor Study, visit itd.idaho.gov and select *Projects*, *Southwest Idaho* and *Idaho 55 Corridor Study*, or contact:

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ITD Public Involvement

Persons needing an interpreter or special accommodations are urged to contact the Public Involvement Coordinator at (208) 334-4444 or TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.

Se les recomienda a las personas que necesiten un intérprete o arreglos especiales que llamen al coordinador de participación público al (208) 334-4444 ó TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.



THANK YOU!

Over 110 people attended the open house in September 2009 in Caldwell. The open house focused on the draft access management plan for Idaho 55 in Canyon County, and design concepts for improving safety, and increasing mobility along the corridor.

Access management plan

The access management plan will establish the number and spacing of driveways and intersections along Idaho 55. For example, new traffic signals will be one mile apart. State and local governments will use the plan when addressing future development requests.

Design concepts

The design concept for Canyon County includes several key features:

- Two travel lanes in each direction to improve capacity.
- A roadway median to separate opposing traffic and eliminate left turns at driveways. Historically, left turns cause the majority of driveway crashes. Openings in the median at regular intervals will allow motorists to make a U-turn into driveways.
- Right-turn lanes to remove slowing vehicles from through traffic lanes.
- A median U-turn intersection that eliminates left turns at traffic lights.

A median U-turn intersection option and a conventional intersection option were both presented at the public open house.



WHAT WE HEARD

Open house participants supported the draft access management plan. Comments were evenly split between the conventional and median U-turn intersection designs. In addition, open house participants wanted the following improvements on Idaho 55:

- Add traffic signals at intersection of major cross streets.
- Add right-turn lanes.
- Widen the roadway.

Participants also asked ITD to consider the following issues:

- Reduce the speed limit.
- Improve warnings at rural intersections (larger stop signs, rumble strips, and/or flashers at local road crossings).
- Limit direct access into driveways.

A full summary of comments is available at itd.idaho.gov/projects/d3/ID55Corridor.

NEXT STEPS

- The access management plan will be published in **spring 2010**.
- The draft corridor plan will be available for review in **summer 2010**.
- The Idaho Transportation Board will adopt the final corridor plan in **fall/winter 2010**.

Other projects in this area

- The city of Nampa and the Idaho Transportation Department have partnered to fund the widening of Idaho 55 through the Middleton Road/Karcher Road intersection. A construction date has not been determined.



Median U-Turn Intersection

